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THE 'SITUATION' IN REHAB {page 09}

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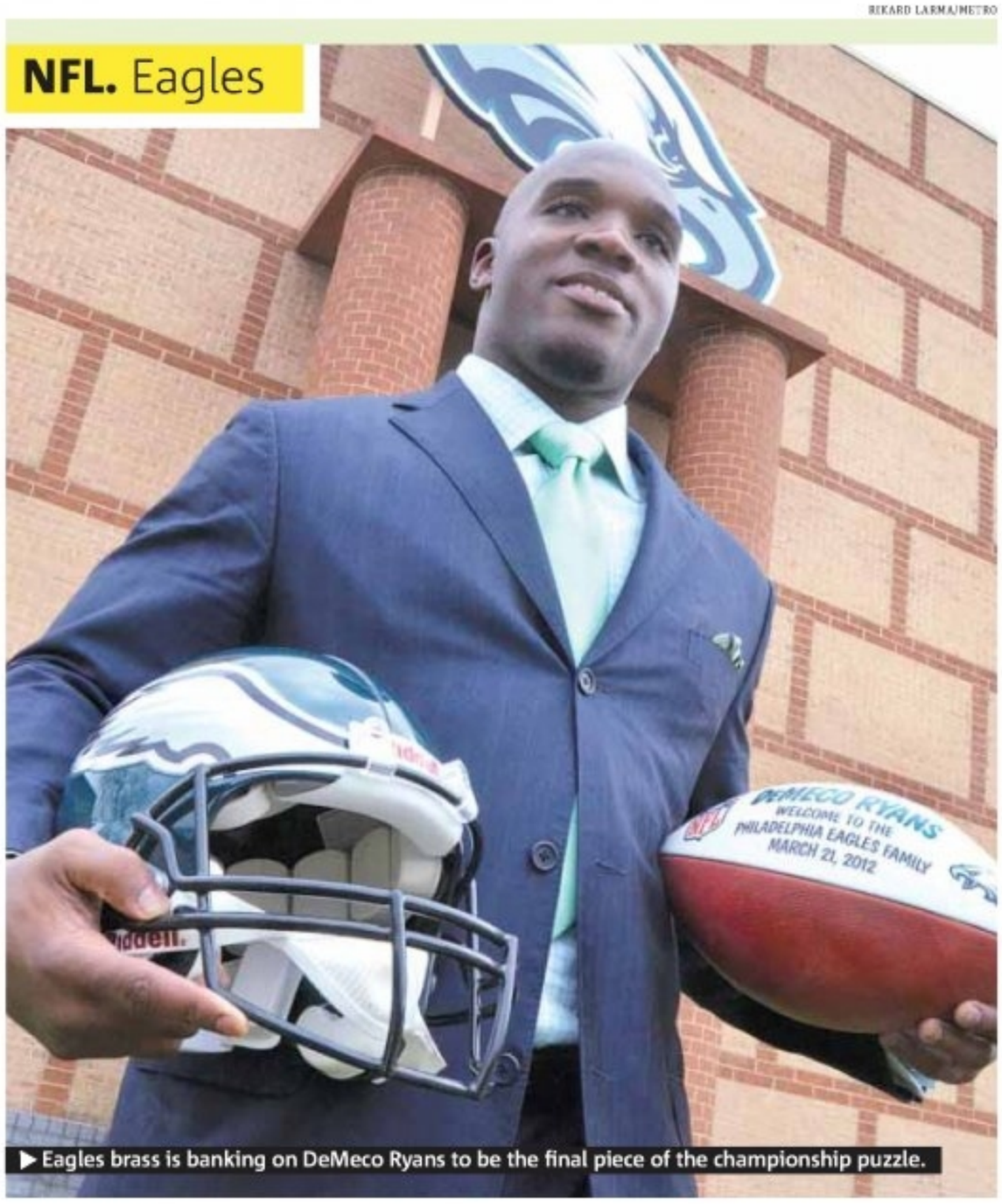

REKARD LARMA/METRO

▶ Eagles brass is banking on DeMeco Ryans to be the final piece of the championship puzzle.

DeMeco Ryans claims he isn't here to be the "savior," but the Eagles' new starting middle linebacker certainly has the tools. Ryans, a two-time Pro Bowl selection, was introduced to the masses yesterday in South Philadelphia. He praised a passionate fan base and what he hopes to turn into a special defense. "I'm going to take this city to where we want to go," he said. {page 16}

SEPTA cops' strike gives riders reason to worry

◐ Sudden work stoppage by transit officers surprised SEPTA ◐ City police will patrol system when school lets out ◐ Bob Brady gets involved in talks {page 02}

Metropolitik

Don't believe hype: Obama is not a liberal

◐ Despite what GOP wants you to believe, the president does not represent liberalism ◐ But why bother with facts? {page 08}

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Transit without cops?

- Riders worried without police presence
- Philly PD will step in during after-school hours
- Unarmed security workers to patrol rest of time
- Bob Brady met with union last night

RIKARD LARMA/METRO

▶ Some of the transit police force's 219 officers rallied outside City Hall yesterday, hours after they struck suddenly at 1:30 p.m.

Rider quotes

"I'm used to seeing [police] and I like seeing police on the trains ... It makes a difference."
KATHLEEN LINDSAY, NORTH PHILADELPHIA

"Even when SEPTA cops are around stuff happens. Being as though they're not there now, it's gonna be worse."
MIKE JORDAN, MOUNT AIRY

With its transit police force on strike for the second time in four years, SEPTA announced contingency plans yesterday to prevent service interruptions or safety problems for riders.

Philadelphia police will patrol elevated trains, subways, subway-surface trolleys and buses in the city and have officers posted at 24 key stations between 2 and 6 p.m., officials said. SEPTA has also contracted with private security firm Allied Barton to provide 40 guards to augment local police and the authority's 45 non-union police personnel starting today.

Officials said the plan will provide adequate security for riders, while also not impacting the police department's normal operations.

"We don't feel this is going to have any impact on our staffing as we speak. We don't anticipate any problems," said Deputy Police Commissioner William Blackburn.

The plan was the result of a strike action by the Fraternal Order of Transit Police, which represents SEPTA's 219 sworn police officers, after the two sides failed to reach a contract following more than a year of negotiations. The union announced the strike shortly before 2 p.m., leaving officials in a bit of a lurch before the afternoon rush.

FOTP Richard Neal called SEPTA's decision to hire security officers "a slap in the face."

"The biggest question is what is the purpose of them standing there just to watch passengers get on the train and ride back and forth, as opposed to having a police officer down there that has powers to make arrests and is out there to protect and serve the riding public?" Neal asked.

SOLOMON D. LEACH
sleach@metro.us

Bob Brady to the rescue?

The union said it made concessions on pensions and other items, but that negotiations broke down because of a dispute over $200,000 in certification pay, which would amount to about $20 more per week. It also asked for binding arbitration, but SEPTA rejected the idea.

▶ Neal, union president

- "This is not a path that we relish. We did not choose to go with this way," said the union's Anthony Ingargiola.
- SEPTA would not discuss details of the negotiations, but spokesman Richard Maloney called the strike "unfortunate and unnecessary."
- Congressman Bob Brady was expected to meet with union officials and possibly help negotiations resume.

In the news

Parents charged in child's death

Two parents have been arrested for the alleged murder of their young child. Khalil Wimes, 6, was taken to Children's Hospital with multiple injuries Monday night and died there. Tina Cuffie, also known as Tina Wimes, 44, and Latiff Hadi, also known as Floyd Wimes, 48, both of Point Breeze, are charged.

In the news

Perzel gets 30 months

Former Pennsylvania House Speaker John Perzel, a once powerful Republican from Northeast Philadelphia, was sentenced to at least two and a half years in prison yesterday for his role in using taxpayer dollars on a scheme to give GOP candidates a leg up in competitive political races across the state.

Gunfire at playground injures two children

SOUTH PHILADELPHIA. Police are investigating a shooting at a crowded playground that left two children hospitalized Tuesday night.

A gunman fired into a group of children at Sach's Playground at Fourth and Washington streets shortly before 9 p.m. A boy, 12, was shot in the ankle and a girl, 15, was hit in the thigh. Both were taken to Pennsylvania Hospital in stable condition.

Neighbors said that this is not the first time there has been trouble with kids in the neighborhood. "I've never seen a bunch of children so ignorant in my life," said Vernon Gillespie, 53, who lives nearby and was on the scene during the shooting's aftermath. METRO/AW

▶ Farnese

Farnese proposes tests for erectile dysfunction

PENNSYLVANIA. In a political tit-for-tat, state Sen. Larry Farnese announced he will introduce a bill forcing men to undergo invasive medical testing if they seek treatment for erectile dysfunction in response to a Republican-sponsored bill that some say would alienate the rights of women.

The Republican proposal would require women, under certain circumstances, to undergo a transvaginal ultrasound 24 hours before having an abortion to check the size of the fetus.

Farnese said his bill is "to show that this [GOP] effort is ridiculous and that we should be protecting and expanding, not watering down, health services for women."

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DA tackling repeat offenders

District Attorney Seth Williams announced a new program that will give about 75 nonviolent felony drug offenders per year a chance to avoid prison and instead enroll in a education and workforce training program.

He hopes "The Choice is Yours," which began at the Criminal Justice Center Feb. 27, will help combat recidivism by providing a positive path; currently, 73 percent of people convicted of a crime are rearrested within two years. "What we're doing now does not work," he said.

Funded by $1.3 million in grants from the William Penn and Lenfest foundations, "The Choice is Yours" saw its first class of eight young adults graduate on Monday. They will serve as mentors to the second class.

Participants said the camaraderie aspect was important. "The most helpful part was being in a group and working together to get where we're at," said recent graduate Terrence Terry, 19.

Those enrolled will finish the program as high school graduates without the stigma of a criminal record. "Hopefully, with the skills they learn and the lack of a felony conviction, they will not be barred from participating in their hopes and dreams," Williams said.

Williams has created a special division within his office to and determine eligibility for the program, and 15 district attorneys have been tasked with handling criminal charges rather than five. "We'll be stretching the office thin," he said. "I believe my resources are best spent this way."

Other services lending their resources include JEVS Human Services, who will provide case management and job training and placement, the Pennsylvania Prison Society and the Center for Literacy, who will assist in education.

ALEX WIGGLESWORTH
awigglesworth@metro.us

RIKARD LARMA/METRO

▶ Seth Williams

73%
Convicted criminals who are rearrested within two years, according to Williams

75
Nonviolent, felony drug offenders who will participate in the program's first year

About the program

The program is based on a similar effort in San Francisco, but Williams said that the Philadelphia version will have a more rigorous data gathering component overseen by Public/Private Ventures, which may lend more sustainability to the program.

"Hopefully, through my charm and statistics, we will be able to attract funding," he said.

METRO/AW

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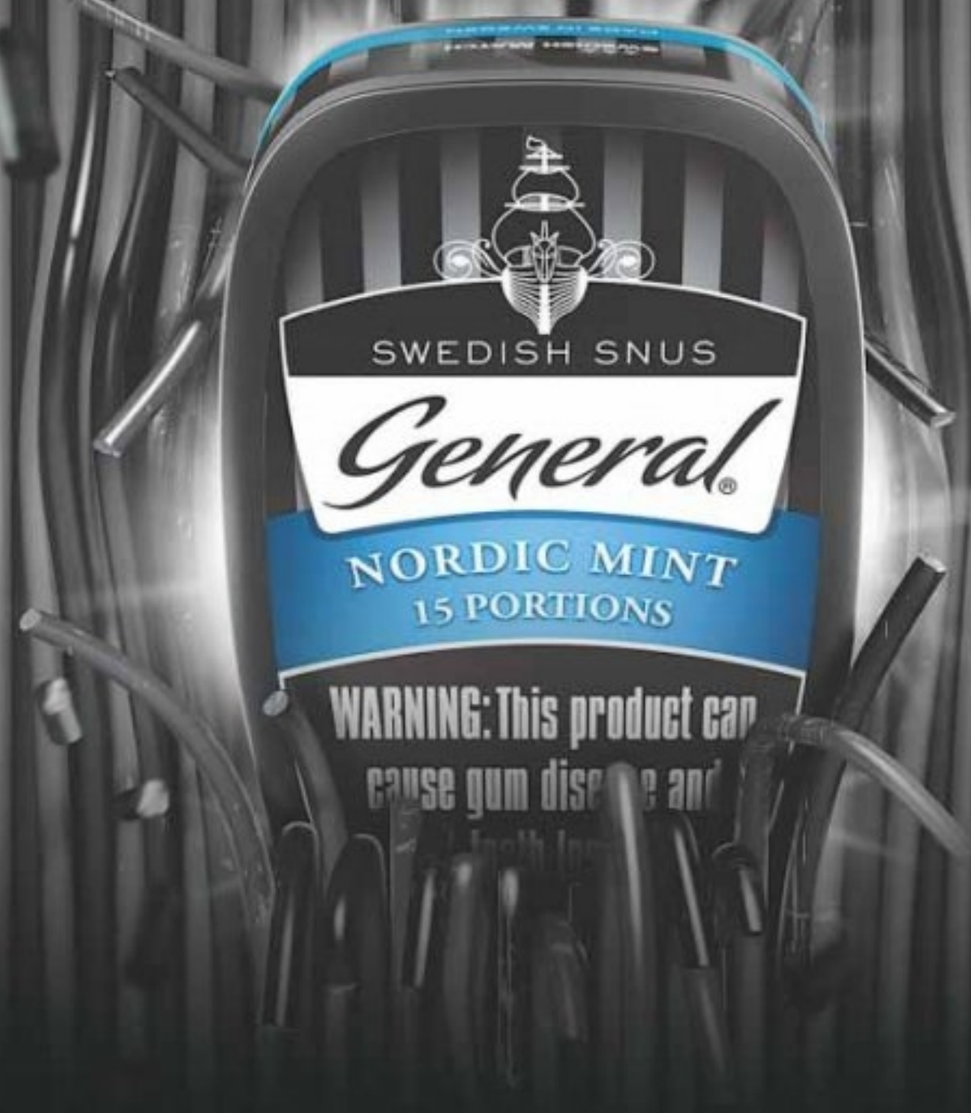

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Web guy's new idea for online dating: Talk to each other

Former The Onion president bringing dating website to Philly Says Web has evolved, dating sites have not

ISTOCKPHOTO

A new dating site arrived in Philly this week, boasting it was a fresh take on Web meet-ups.

Popular sex and relationships website Nerve.com, run by former The Onion president Sean Mills, expanded its online dating service to Philadelphia this week.

"When I looked at the dating world, first briefly as a user but also when I was previously at The Onion, it was interesting to me that, on the one hand, it made so much sense people would meet online," Mills said. "But the whole story of online dating was dominated by math and science and these really serious attempts to sort of predetermine whether two people are right for each other."

"I think the Web has changed a lot, and I don't think dating sites have evolved with it."
MILLS

Rather than using algorithms and questionnaires, Nerve Dating determines compatibility the old-fashioned way — by pairing partners who have shared interests. "The problem people have is starting the first conversation and doing it in a way that feels natural, entertaining and dynamic," Mills said.

"There didn't seem to be anything out there for me and my friends, people that live in cities in a culturally active way," Mills said. "We would meet people in a bar and have conversation about something interesting, but that's not something any sites focused on, the conversation."

He said the experience of the site more closely resembles traditional social media outlets than other online dating providers. "One of our most popular features, 'Last Night,' just asks, 'What did you do last night?'" Mills said. "It's kind of like a check-in and starts introducing you to people who did similar things to start conversations. It also helps build your profile dynamically so you're not slaving away on it, which nobody wants to do.

"The Web has changed a lot, and I don't think dating sites have evolved with it."

What's trending?

Philadelphia is the sixth city for the site, which launched in early December and has more than 30,000 users.

- "It's really popular with people who are culturally active — obviously Philadelphia is an incredible restaurant town full of smart people with great universities and a great music scene," Mills said. "It's such a lively cultural city, and I think we see that really stimulates a lot of conversation."
- "We're trying to show what the next generation dating site should look like and how it should act."
- Ninety-seven percent of users indicated they had a college or above education.
- Most popular films discussed/checked-in last month: "The Artist", "Shame," "The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo."

ALEX WIGGLESWORTH
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Consumers flood phone lines looking for SimplePure HCG weight loss solution

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What's so liberal about Mr. Obama?

For complaints, suggestions and digital attaboys, e-mail us at brayden.simms@metro.us.

The American right, tripping over itself to brand President Obama the most radically leftist black man since Jesus Christ himself, always misses the fact that Obama is just about as liberal as he is genetically black: About half, give or take.

Which half, you ask? Well, when you compare Obama to any prominent Republican politician, he comes off looking particularly progressive. In the same way that when you contrast the president's human rights record with that of the Great Lord Of The Underworld, Satan himself, Obama appears downright godly.

It's a consequence of the extreme polarization of politics that any time we criticize Republicans we are angrily accused, in reader letters and on www.metro.us, of working for Team Obama. But this is not a defense of Obama; quite the opposite, in fact. This is a defense of facts. To wit:

Obama's signature legislative accomplishment, the Affordable Care Act, is a repackaging of corporatist right-wing ideas (opposed only because it's politically expedient for Republicans to tank any possible presidential successes); in passing it, Obama undermined actually progressive plans like single-payer and the public option.

His foreign policy re-upped the imperial excesses of the Bush era in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Libya and elsewhere. At home, he's expanded the Patriot Act and increased the reach of executive powers, claiming the right of the president to execute American citizens.

Obama packed his cabinet full of bank alums, pushing financial bailouts with few conditions; no one on Wall Street has been prosecuted. He has extended the Bush tax cuts, and nearly agreed to Republican proposals to seriously gut Medicare and other social programs. He doesn't support gay marriage. He doesn't back Occupy Wall Street and has moved to criminalize protest.

In sum, there is overwhelming evidence to conclude that Obama is anything but a liberal. He is, rather, a Democrat.

Metro does not endorse the opinions of the author, or any opinions expressed on its pages.

MANDEL NGAN/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Reader challenge: E-mail us factual evidence of Obama's Oval Office liberalism: real policies he has pursued that you think paint him as liberal.

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GET FED

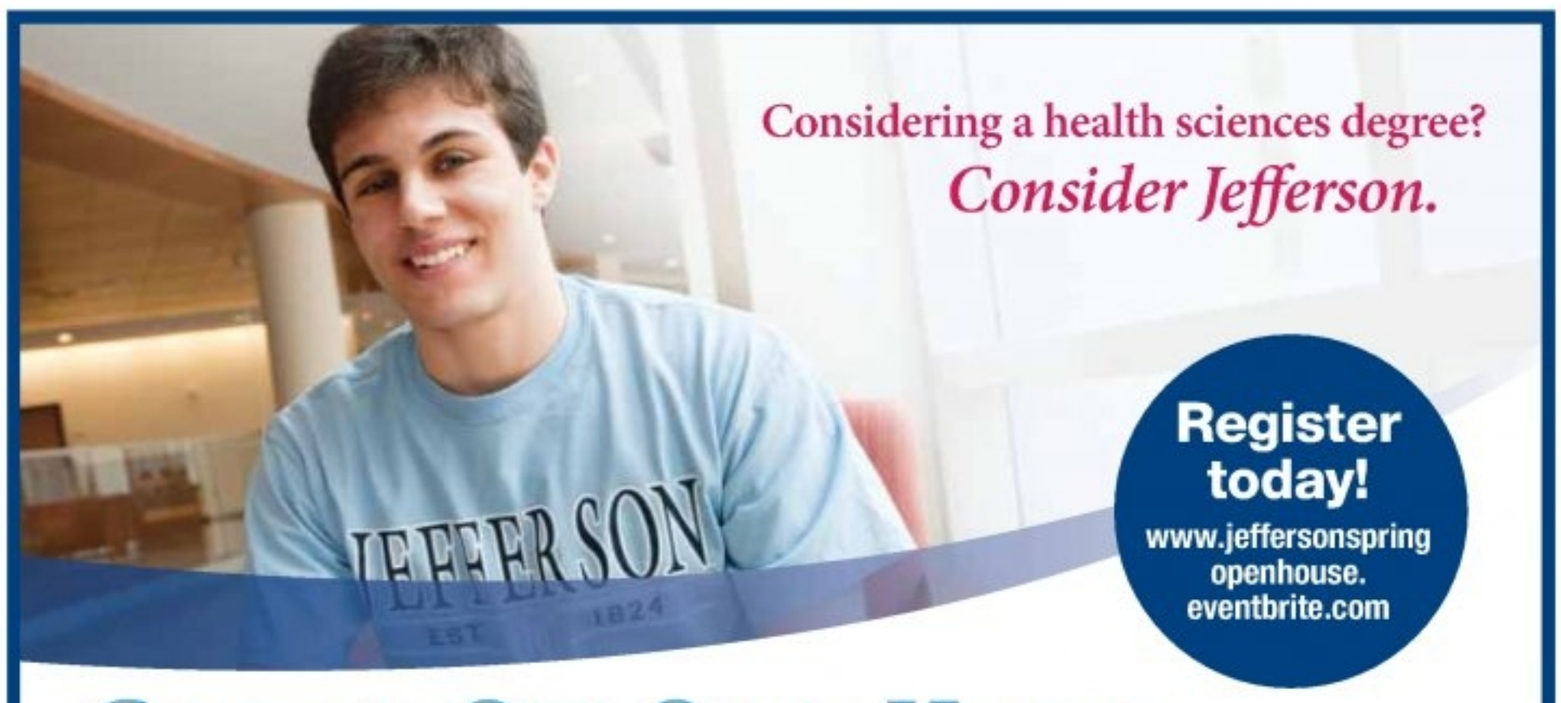
Because sometimes you've only got time to skim the headlines:

- "Jeb Bush endorses Mitt Romney" **WASHINGTON POST**
- "Top Romney adviser: Mitt will erase his conservative positions once he's the nominee" **THE PLUM LINE**
- "The Primary Is Over, When Will Mitt's Opponents Accept That?" **BUZZFEED**
- "Ron Paul: Secret Service is welfare" **POLITICO**
- "Did The Illinois Primary Seal Romney's Inevitability?" **THE NOTE**
- "G.O.P. Nomination Becoming a One-Man Race" **NYTIMES**
- "Newt: If this goes to the convention I can win" **THE RIGHT SCOOP**

He said, we said

"Stimulus was supposed to be quick. In fact, they never intended to spend it and will not completely have effectively spent it until after the president's re-elect. Always looking at how do you get the maximum hit when the president was up for re-elect."

REP. DARRELL ISSA, REPUBLICAN HOUSE OVERSIGHT CHAIRMAN, ACCUSED OBAMA OF DELAYING STIMULUS MONIES IN AN EFFORT TO BOOST HIS OWN RE-ELECTION HOPES. IS THIS AN ACCIDENTAL ADMISSION FROM THE RIGHT THAT STIMULUS SPENDING DURING A RECESSION DOES ACTUALLY IMPROVE THE ECONOMY, DESPITE GOP INTRANSIGENCE ON THIS POLICY?



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THE WORD

Metro's **Dorothy Robinson** shares her take on the world of gossip @dorothyatmetro dorothy.robinson@metro.us

What's the situation with The Situation?

There's something fishy going on with **Michael "The Situation" Sorrentino**, and it's not what you think (I know you're thinking "venereal disease," you dirty, dirty reader, you).

Nope. He's in rehab — but the reasons why are very murky.

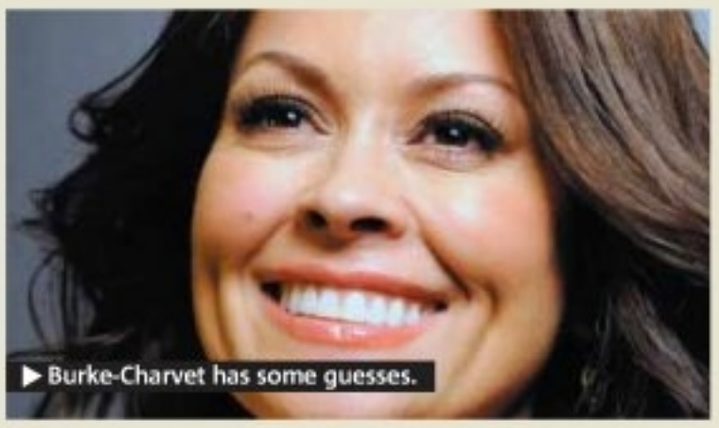
Apparently, the "Jersey Shore" star became "dependent on prescription pills to counteract his hard-partying lifestyle, which included illegal substances. Mike was in a vicious cycle of not sleeping because of the illegal substances that he was taking, so he began using prescription pills to help him sleep," a source told RadarOnline. "Mike would refer to the prescription pills as 'downers.' The good news is that he was the one that wanted to get help and checked into rehab. Hopefully with the proper treatment, Mike will be able to lead a sober life."

But his representative has denied all of this, issuing the classic "he's suffering from exhaustion" statement: "He is not in rehab for substance abuse. He has spent the last several weeks at an undisclosed location for much-needed rest and recuperation after his extensive production and appearance schedule."

As for Sorrentino, he tweeted Tuesday night: "Don't believe everything you read or hear."

If he is indeed in rehab for substance abuse, doesn't that mean he probably shouldn't be partying so hard when "Jersey Shore" goes back for filming the just-announced sixth season? With **Snookie** not drinking because of her pregnancy and The Situation refraining from "hard partying," what is to become of a show that is completely based around its characters getting wasted?

Next thing you know, they're going to start using sunblock.



▶ Burke-Charvet has some guesses.

Burke on her 'DWTS' predictions

Brooke Burke-Charvet was in New York City yesterday for the launch of her short film, "The Difference is Clear" for Claritin. In between chatting with her about runny noses, we got the chance to talk with the co-host of "Dancing with the Stars" about the new season.

"There were so many great dancers Monday night. It's really the first time that we've seen that level of dancing so soon," she told us about the show's premiere. "We've never had 9s ever on a premiere, so it's a tough one." As for who she sees as early standouts? "There was a handful of people that did really well that I think are better than our semifinals that we've had in the past. Jaleel White did great, I think Donald [Driver] might creep up and be a dark horse. Katherine [Jenkins] did amazing. Everybody's talking about William Levy. Hard to tell, everybody was great."

— *Meredith Engel*

Depp and Olsen: What?!

According to In Touch magazine, **Johnny Depp** was "hunkered down" in **Ashley Olsen**'s apartment for 24 hours in February. "It was quiet in her apartment, like it was just the two of them in there," an insider recalls. "It didn't seem like it was just a visit between friends." Whatever they were up to during their overnighter, it certainly left Johnny exhausted. When the star finally left the next day, "he looked like he was out of it," an onlooker said.

Johnny Depp look out of it? You don't say!

The feed ...

▶ Checking in with some of Hollywood's biggest names to see what they've been up to — in their own words, in 140 characters or fewer.

Joan Rivers is coping with aging, Jessica Alba could use a pick-me-up and Conan O'Brien is bracing for an awkward parenting moment.

@Joan_Rivers
So depressing. I can't believe I turned 78. I don't feel 76. I guess we all turn 74 eventually. Oh well, 72 is just a number...

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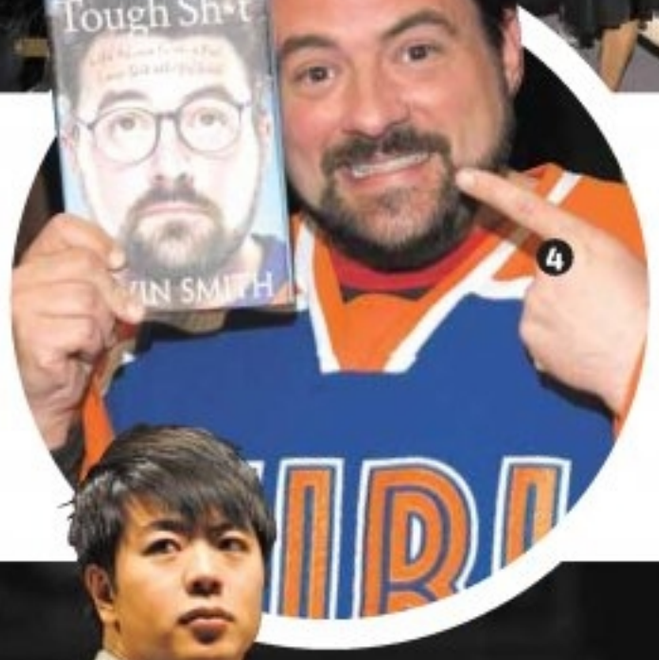

Motley Crue and KISS unite, Nicole Richie and SJP take flight

1. Nicole Richie (and her enormous bag) was spotted at Miami International Airport on Tuesday.

2. Sarah Jessica Parker and son James Wilke Broderick arrived at Narita International Airport on Tuesday in Narita, Japan.

3. Musicians Tommy Thayer, Gene Simmons, Eric Singer, Paul Stanley, Vince Neil, Nikki Sixx, Mick Mars and Tommy Lee posed onstage to announce their upcoming Motley Crue and KISS co-headlining tour at the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel on Tuesday in Los Angeles.

4. Kevin Smith promoted "Tough Sh-t: Life Advice from a Fat, Lazy Slob Who Did Good" at Bookends Bookstore on Tuesday in Ridgewood, N.J.

5. Pianist Lang Lang rehearsed on stage at Royal Albert Hall on Tuesday in London.

6. The Muppets were honored with the 2,466th star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in front of the El Capitan Theatre on Tuesday in Hollywood.

7. Christina Hendricks posed after ringing the opening bell with the cast of "Mad Men" at the New York Stock Exchange on Wednesday.

1: JOHN PARRA/FILMMAGIC
2: JIM SATO/WIREIMAGE
3: KEVIN WINTER/GETTY IMAGES
4: DAVE KOTINSKY/GETTY IMAGES
5: MICHAEL LOCCISANO/GETTY IMAGES
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10 REASONS TO HIT THE MOVIES

Must-see

▶ Jennifer Lawrence, as Katniss Everdeen, gets escorted by Peacekeepers in "The Hunger Games."

1 'The Hunger Games'
Potter and the sparkly vamps had their time. Now, a post-apocalyptic teenage huntress takes center stage as a warrior in her country's annual "Hunger Games," in which two teens from each of the 12 districts must fight to the death in an elaborate game that is broadcast to all of Panem.

2 '21 Jump Street'
Based on the '80s TV series, this one stars Jonah Hill and Channing Tatum as two less-than-slick police officers who go undercover in an attempt to bust a high school drug ring.

3 'Jeff, Who Lives at Home'
By now, you'd think we'd be sick of seeing Jason Segel play a shorts-wearing manchild who lives in his mom's basement. And yet, we're not at all.

4 'John Carter'
In Disney's adaptation of Edgar Rice Burroughs' novels, Taylor Kitsch plays a Civil War vet who can't catch a break: He ends up on Mars, gets taken prisoner by giants and then should probably go back and save the princess after he finally escapes.

5 'A Thousand Words'
Eddie Murphy angers a spiritual guru, inciting a curse — or a blessing, if that's your bag, hippie — that gives him only 1,000 words to speak before he dies.

6 'Silent House'
Supposedly based on a true story, this low-budget haunted house horror flick tells the story of a father and daughter renovating an old cottage — until the weird noise coming from the top floor becomes the priority.

7 'Project X'
Shot in handheld by a cast of unknowns, this one — like every great high school film — is about nerds who conquer all by throwing a rager.

8 'Dr. Seuss' The Lorax'
Zac Efron, Danny DeVito, Taylor Swift and Ed Helms voice the central characters of the beloved environmentalist children's story about the extinction of the "truffula trees."

9 'Wanderlust'
Paul Rudd and Jennifer Aniston star in this Judd Apatow-produced comedy about an unemployed couple who go in search of an unconventional life on a hippie commune.

10 'Good Deeds'
Tyler Perry writes, directs and stars in this story about a successful man, named Deeds, who is jolted out of his predictable existence by doing, you guessed it, good deeds.

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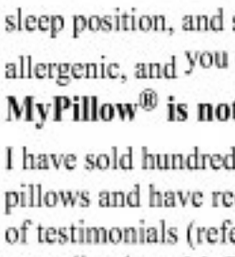

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myentertainment

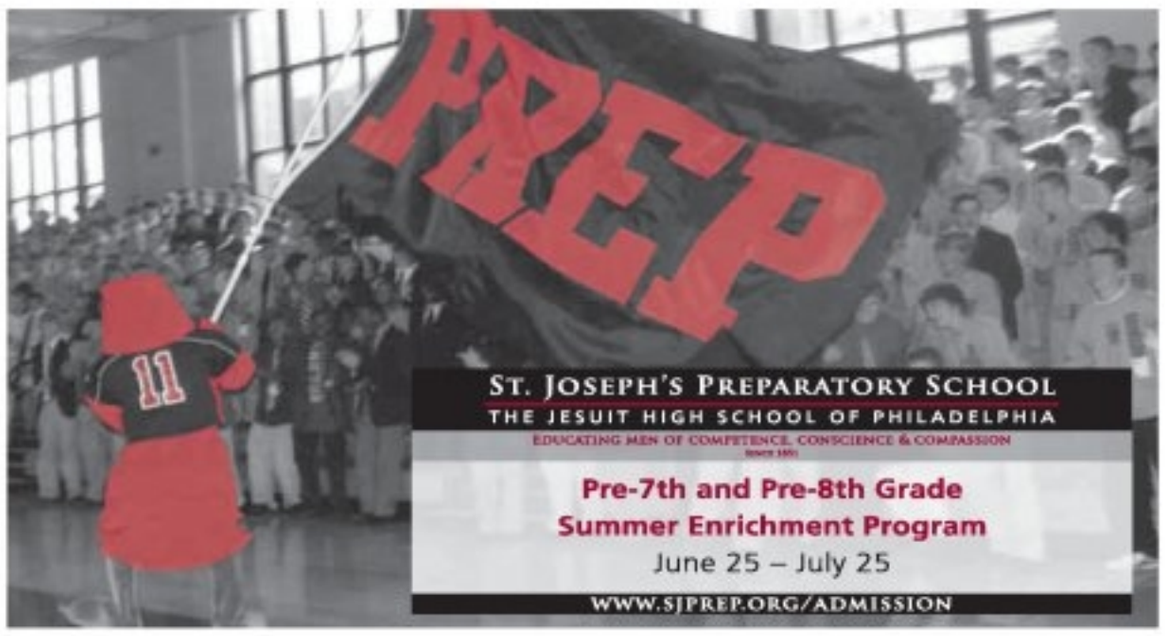
'The Clearing'

DL ANDERSON

▶ See Bowerbirds' Phil Moore and Beth Tacular trip the light fantastic tonight, 9:15 p.m. at Johnny Brenda's. For details visit www.johnnybrendas.com.

If the rustic Americana tinge of Bowerbirds' sound suggests music that could have been devised in a dilapidated cabin the woods, that's not just the folksy affectation of some urban hipster. Phil Moore and Beth Tacular wrote and recorded most of their third album "The Clearing" in a cabin they're building in the North Carolina woods.

"It's really just our little spot in the world," Moore says. "It's the thing that we do when we come home from tours — or the thing that we don't do when we come home from tours, depending on how much energy we have."



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of the air

For Moore, the cabin is an opportunity to reconnect with his rural youth in Iowa. "I grew up with farmhouses every two or three miles and seeing the horizon for miles," he recalls. "All my homes were on the edge of town and I would play out in the cornfields. I think that isolation and seclusion was the inspiration for moving out into the country."

"The Clearing" retains the raw, rootsy sound of the duo's previous releases, but tempers it with a more lush, expansive palette. It's a growth born of personal hardship, most importantly Moore and Tacular's breakup and reunion, not just as a band but as a couple.

"I hear us getting back together on the record," Moore says of the new songs. "I hear our ability to get through that hard time and come back and have this solid relationship again. I hear more of our collaboration on this album than on previous albums, and I think that's us getting along again coming through."

SHAUN BRADY
shaun.brady@metro.us

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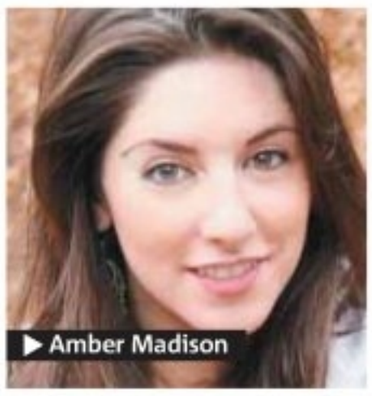
mydating

Myths about men

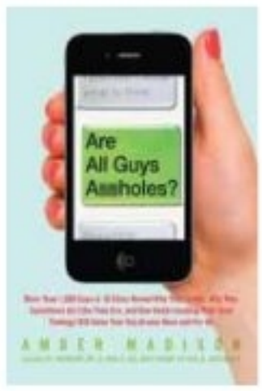
Women often have a lot of assumptions when it comes to male dating behavior, but one author investigated by simply asking guys what they thought

What they had to say about love will surprise you



Amber Madison

Dating can be such a confusing, nerve-wracking experience that many women tend to believe certain "truths" about men in order to get some sense of security: "Men are biologically driven to cheat," "men are scared of commitment" and "men care about looks more than anything else" are a few favorites. But sex and dating expert Amber Madison refused to believe that all of these assumptions were absolutes. To investigate, she traveled to 10 cities and interviewed thousands of men to answer the question, "Are all guys a—holes?" Her book by that very name offers a surprising answer. Here are a few of Madison's findings:



- **Guys only care about sex.** "Seventy-three percent of guys said their primary interest in women was someone to have a long-term relationship with. Eight percent said sex, and 18 percent said short-term companionship/dating," she says.
- **Guys you meet in bars are sleazy.** "True, guys you meet in bars are in a sleazy frame of mind —they're more likely to stretch the truth in order to get you in bed. But they are just as likely to want to find a girlfriend and get married as guys not in bars," Madison says. "Sex may be their priority at the moment but it's not their priority in general."
- **Guys care about looks more than anything else.** "Only 30 percent of guys gave looks a five (on a one to five scale of importance), while many more gave humor, intelligence, being caring and ambition a five," she says.
- **It's a bad sign when a guy doesn't kiss you at the end of a first date.** "Only 19 percent say they don't kiss a girl after a date because they didn't like her," the author explains. "Thirty-four percent said they didn't because it might be too forward, 21 percent said they didn't have the opportunity and 12 percent said they wussed out."
- **Guys don't want to get married.** "Ninety-five percent of guys say they want to get married someday. They talk or think about marriage a lot."

HEIDI PATALANO
heidi.patalano@metro.us

More myths

Guys want to make the first move.

"Fifty percent of guys said a girl making the first move was a turn-on, 45 percent don't care either way and only 5 percent think it's 'too aggressive.'"

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Letters

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Two-state solution for left and right

At this point of the "culture war," I am willing to give the two-state solution a go. Put the Nanny State proponents on one side and the Tea Party supporters on the other. Those that feel that some people are smarter than the majority of the herd, and thus should "manage" the rest of us, please step to the left side. Those that support government mandated "equality of outcome," government distribution of resources and, of course, those with their hands out — those who wish to punish achievement and reward dependence — should go that way as well. Those that want to micromanage the military but would never serve a day in uniform, those that see our nation's history as a litany of sins and those who can't wait to apologize for just about everything our nation has ever done: Please pick a side and I'll go to the other. I can see it now, the left side, a collection of academics who couldn't manage a church bake sale and a bunch of occupying loafers who couldn't be bothered!

JOSHUA TORDOFF, VIA E-MAIL

Health care cuts to fund rich windfall?!

RE: "GOP: CUT HEALTH CARE, TAXES ON RICH": Republican House Budget Chairman Paul Ryan is at it again: $3 trillion in tax breaks for corporations and the top 1 percent. And where does he want to cut? Health care, food stamps and tax credits for the poor. Vote Republican, or have one of your servants vote for you; or vote Democrat between work shifts and jobs.

ROBERT LA ROSA, VIA E-MAIL

Politicians run their elections on the premise of Christian values. Yet they want to cut Medicare, Medicaid, food stamps and unemployment all while lowering taxes for big business and the rich. If you're a Christian, ask yourself and them these questions. If Jesus were running for president what would he do? Cut health care for the elderly and poor? No! He healed the sick. Cut food stamps for the elderly, poor and out of work? No! He fed the hungry. Give tax breaks and loopholes for the rich to line their pockets with more gold? No! These politicians should stop taking Jesus' name in vain.

NANCY WARD, VIA E-MAIL

E-mail your letters: **letters@metro.us**

Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words.
Metro reserves the right to edit all letters.
Please include your name and contact information.

Thanks for the article doing the math on the Ryan budget plan. It makes sense for those who have inherited wealth and can live on it — or for the kings of industries where deregulation means fast and fabulous profits — to vote Republican. One more piece of evidence that this crew are masters at putting things in terms that get people to vote against their interests.

PAUL SIMONS, PHILADELPHIA

Prohibition: We can all get behind it

It's been said before, but it bears repeating: Prohibition is a disaster. We have a model for effective drug policy in tobacco. Tobacco smoking has been gradually declining for decades. Prohibition wouldn't have done that. All recreational drugs should be legalized. Marijuana should be about as acceptable as alcohol, and drugs like cocaine and methamphetamine should be subject to policy that would make them lose popularity the way tobacco is.

DAN WYLIE-SEARS, VIA E-MAIL

Horoscope

♈ Aries **March 21-April 19.** Even if you are confronted with some unexpected challenges at the last minute, you shouldn't have any trouble handling them. You'll simply stiffen your back and dig in.

♉ Taurus **April 20-May 20.** Although you aren't likely to have total control over all situations, if one should start to cause you concern you'll figure out what measures to take.

♊ Gemini **May 21-June 20.** An old project that you've been nursing for some time should not be allowed to go by the wayside just because something new captures your fancy. Give a little attention to each.

♋ Cancer **June 21-July 22.** A condition that could have a direct influence on your reputation might put you through a delicate balancing act. Be considerate to everybody, and everything will be fine.

♌ Leo **July 23-Aug. 22.** Be tolerant of others' contradictory views and opinions; but, by the same token, don't discount the knowledge you've acquired from your own personal experiences.

♍ Virgo **Aug. 23-Sept. 22.** If you want to collect something that has long been overdue from another, you speak up. The person with whom you're dealing isn't likely to make a move unless you make some noise.

♎ Libra **Sept. 23-Oct. 23.** Your partner in an endeavor isn't likely to be as speedy as you are. The individual will be more effective if you let him or her work at a pace that he or she can handle.

♏ Scorpio **Oct. 24-Nov. 22.** Several important objectives can be achieved, but it will take much dedicated effort to accomplish them all. Don't expect any free rides, only a lot of hard work.

♐ Sagittarius **Nov. 23-Dec. 21.** If you feel inclined to gamble, do so only on your own expertise and talents. Things aren't likely to work out too well if you are depending on another's abilities.

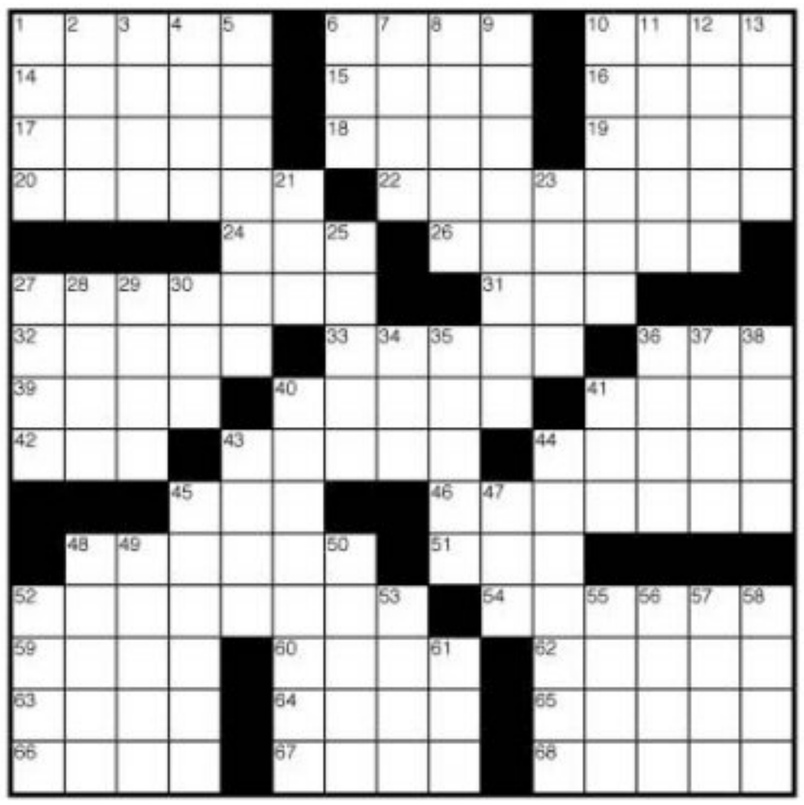
♑ Capricorn **Dec. 22-Jan. 19.** You'll need a featherlike touch in order to handle a delicate domestic matter that might arise. If you're too stern or heavy-handed about it, you could cause more trouble.

♒ Aquarius **Jan. 20-Feb. 19.** It's important to not take yourself or events too seriously, because if you appraise situations unrealistically, you'll quickly turn molehills into huge mountains.

♓ Pisces **Feb. 20-March 20.** It behooves you to treat your commercial and/or financial affairs more seriously than usual. Don't deliberately be too hard on the other guy; but, by the same token, protect your interests as well. **BERNICE BEDE OSOL**

Across
1 Win every game
6 Karachi language
10 Movie pig
14 Show on TV again
15 Fearsome cape
16 On a rampage
17 __ incognita
18 Pour forth
19 Deli-scale word
20 Tack on
22 Made much of
24 Salary limit
26 Male ducks
27 Deli sandwiches
31 Gridiron stats
32 Loafed around
33 Wahine's welcome
36 Judicial order
39 Look after
40 Roman naturalist
41 Not chubby
42 Miscellany
43 Phoenix suburb
44 Form a gully
45 Defective firecracker
46 Bee's posterior
48 Wagner oeuvres
51 Don Ho's neckwear
52 Beach sandal (hyph.)
54 Cozy coverlet
59 "La __ Bonita"
60 Waffle maker
62 Beyond banal
63 Boo and hiss
64 Agrippina's son
65 Untouchables, e.g.
66 Prof.
67 Raised
68 Lucy's friend

Down
1 Baja Ms.
2 Exude moisture
3 Marshal Wyatt __
4 Blarney Stone locale
5 Frisked about
6 Antenna type
7 Cinnamon goody
8 Sci-fi gofer
9 Not deserving
10 Hand-dyed fabrics
11 Leave in awe
12 Drills holes
13 Was very thrifty
21 Bluesy Aykroyd
23 Goose egg
25 Choir selection
27 Beatles' meter maid
28 Idyllic spot
29 Wrist-to-elbow bone
30 King-sized item
34 Mouth part
35 Tatum or Ryan
36 Latch onto
37 __-de-camp
38 Feds (hyph.)
40 Biking
41 Marquee notice of old
43 Domain
44 Big building
45 Take off
47 Princess Di's niece
48 Mary-Kate or Ashley
49 Mounds
50 More ticked off
52 Tasman discovery
53 Sponge feature
55 Annoying insect
56 Greasy-spoon fare
57 Kitty starter
58 Tibet explorer Alexandra David-__
61 Without delay



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	4	5		6		3	2	
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		2					8	
	8		2		4		6	9
6			8	9			3	

SUDOKU **LEVEL: EASY**

	9			7		4		
3			1			2		
		6	2			3	5	
2		5	4				6	
			5		1			
	1				2	9		5
	2	7			3	5		
		9			8			2
		1		2			7	

SUDOKU **LEVEL: HARD**

Solution to yesterday's crossword

F	R	A	U		S	C	A	T		L	E	A	C	H
O	I	L	S		O	A	R	S		E	X	T	R	A
I	C	E	T		L	U	C	K		M	E	T	E	R
L	E	X	I	C	A	L		S	C	O	R	N	E	D
			N	E	C	K	S		A	N	T			
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R	E	A	R		O	A	K	S		W	H	E	T	S
A	R	R	O	G	A	T	E		M	O	U	S	S	E
			M	I	L		R	O	O	K	S			
V	I	V	A	L	D	I		F	A	S	H	I	O	N
A	M	E	N	D		D	A	F	T		A	R	E	A
L	A	N	C	E		O	G	E	E		B	A	I	T
E	N	D	E	D		L	O	R	D		Y	E	L	L

How to play Sudoku: Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

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3

RICARD LARMA/METRO

▶ Ryans has 637 tackles in six NFL seasons.

Birds finally find monster in middle

DeMeco Ryans wasn't limping when he came to the podium yesterday at the NovaCare Complex. That was the first good sign. The green tie he was sporting was the second one.

"I'm excited about it and I'm happy to be here," Ryans said. "I feel the passion here from the fans and the love in here from the city."

Ryans, acquired by the Eagles for a fourth-round pick, is coming off a torn Achilles tendon in 2010 and a down 2011 season — at least by his high standards. Still, the team's new starting middle linebacker claimed he is 100 percent and looked every bit the part of the monster the Eagles have been longing for.

"Let's not put savior on it," Ryans said.

But the word pretty much sums up what many are expecting. The Eagles haven't had a legitimate man in the middle since Jeremiah Trotter left in 2006.

"I can sense that everyone has been looking for that middle linebacker, and I'm happy to be the guy that they chose to step in and be the middle linebacker of this defense. Like I said, it's a perfect fit for me, and it's what I like to do."

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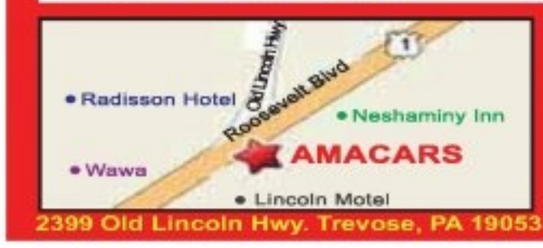

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Ryans reminds Reid of Eagles great Dawkins

RICARD LARMA/METRO

For much of last season, the Eagles' defense was viewed as a unit devoid of leadership. There was no one to inspire the troops. Hopefully, that's all about to change.

DeMeco Ryans was the leader of the Texans' defense for his first six seasons. In fact, his teammates nicknamed him, "Cap."

"I'm not going to step in and say, 'Hey look at me, I'm the guy.' I'm just going to be myself. When I am, I'm a natural leader," Ryans said.

Eagles coach Andy Reid actually thinks Ryans possesses some of the same leadership traits of revered former Eagle Brian Dawkins.

"It's funny you say that because Rick Smith, the Texans general manager, actually said that," Reid said. "That's the type of person that you're getting. Obviously, they are two different type of individuals but with some of the leadership and character that you're getting on and off the field I think are the same."

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Real Estate/Sale

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

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Mobile Homes

NEW & Pre-Owned Homes in Bensalem. Why rent when you can own? Terry's Mobile Homes. 215-639-2422

Homes

House For Sale
$433.59 a month
3 Bedrooms, Excellent condition
Nick's Real Estate
(215) 425-3500

Real Estate/Rent

Apartments

Apartments Available Now
Glenolden area
Full kitchen, full bath
Dishwasher included
Please call 610-734-2360

Feasterville
CHALET VILLAGE

Townhome finally Available! 2BR with a Den • 1½ Baths • Private basement • Private garage • Small dogs allowed • Call Today! 215-355-3048

CROYDON STATION APTS

1BR starting @ $695+ electric 1st month free to qualified applicants. **215-788-7676**

MEDFORD, NJ Spacious 1BR condo, washer/dryer, C/A. Available NOW. $900/mo. No pets. Call 609-668-5111

Won't Last!

LEVITTOWN
MARION VILLAGE
Priced Right!
Studio, 1 & 2 BR from $550
FREE RENT!
Call Today 215-946-8787
marionvillage@comcast.net

Homes

Apartments

Studio & 1 bedroom apts. available.
Leasing office is at 216 S.48th St.
Call 267-888-0592.
Available 9-5 Mon-Fri.
Saturday by appointment.

Doylestown newly renovated 1 BR condo on Main St. SS/granite kitchen, washer/dryer, A/C. $925 + security & reference. 6 mos + lease. 484-336-7815 or 610-921-8566

Real Estate Wanted

We Buy Houses For Cash
(215) 680-3753

For Sale

Miscellaneous

$$CASH PAID$$
Buying diabetic test strips, nicotine patches and gum. We beat all competitor's prices.
For local pick-up call
215-395-7100

Garage & Yard Sales

Bedroom Set Brand New, 5 pc. Twin, Full, Queen, King size, $499. Delivery & Mattresses avail. 215-355-3878

BED **Brand New Queen** Pillow top Mattress Set in plastic w/warranty $175. Delivery avail. 215-355-3878

BED A Pillow Top Queen $175; King $275. Memory Foam Mattress $295. CAN **DELIVER 215-752-0911**

Whirlpool Gold stainless steel kit appliance set. Whirlpool stackable washer & dryer 215-385-2142 215-569-1299

Absolute Bargain. Queen T-top Mattress $90. New in plastic. Delivery avail. Must sell. **215-307-1535**

Garage & Yard Sales

Sectional, micro fiber w/ chaise & ottoman, 7 colors avail. Brand new still boxed. Get all 3 pcs $579 **215-752-0911**

Jobs

Facilities Maintenance

Maintenance Mechanic - Experienced. Mechanical abilities, Light Carpentry, plumbing & electrical. All facets of building maintenance. Bordentown, NJ. Fax resume 609-291-7945

Social Services

Case Manager
Work with formerly homeless families. Home visits, knowledge of Phila community resources & car required, minimum 3 years experience. Send resume/cover to mzehner@wcrpphila.com Fax 215-627-6766 or WCRP 407 Fairmount Ave Philadelphia, PA 19123

General Help Wanted

CMI located in Upper Darby is looking for experienced third party commercial collectors. Hourly rate + commission, full time positions only, no nights or weekends. Please call Peter Lewis at 610-352-5151 ext. 130 or email your resume to plewis@cmiweb.com

Housekeepers
CC Hotels & Hospitals
No exp. To $14/hr.
PAL, 107 W. Girard.
215-203-8745 Fee

Services

Careers

HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA FROM HOME
6-8 weeks accredited
Get a Diploma! Get a Job!
Call 24/7 for free brochure
1-800-264-8330
www.diplomafromhome.com
Benjamin Franklin High School

Children & Elderly

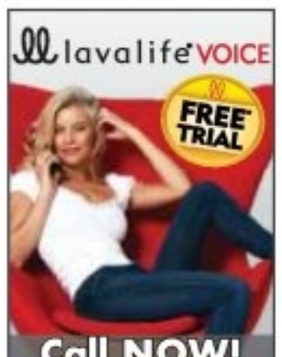
ADOPT A happy, loving couple wishes more than anything to raise your newborn with care, warmth & love. Legal & Confidential. Expenses paid. Please call Maria & Paul, 1-888-315-6516

Miscellaneous

DIABETIC TEST STRIPS NEEDED
Most brands accepted. Will pay up to $15 per box. I will pick-up. Call James 610-453-2525

CASH FOR DIABETIC TEST STRIPS
Also buying: Ensure, new medical equipment, Prilosec, Mucinex and expired strips. Top dollar paid 267-275-1717

Phone Services



General Help Wanted

EMPLOYEES NEEDED!!
HIRING FOR MULTIPLE • FULL TIME OPENINGS
$18.75 /hr avg & Benefits
484-270-1626
Must be good with people
Customer service exp an asset
NO EXPERIENCE REQUIRED
Will train the right candidates.

Phone Services

Business Opportunities

PEMBERTON: Fully Equipped Kitchen w/ Pizza Oven, Grill & Large Dining Area. Call After 1 PM: 609-894-8798

Driveway Sealcoating Business for Sale. Well known & established Bucks Co. sealcoating business since '99. All crack sealing, line striping & sealcoating equipment. The name, phone numbers & all customers. Turnkey operation w/ low investment & great potential! – 610-982-5848

Pets

littlepawsdogshop.com
Specializing in small breed puppies, grooming, boutique & doggie bakery. Available puppies on website. 717-832-7297

Business Opportunities

Notices

Notices

HELP MAKE A DIFFERENCE: ORGAN & TISSUE DONATION FOR HIV RESEARCH
NDRI
If you are HIV+ and interested,
Please call 1-800-222-NDRI (6374)
or visit www.ndriresource.org

Vehicles

Miscellaneous

Car Remotes!

Car Chip Keys!
REMOTE START!
Sales,Repair & Programming
215-486-7040—Fairless Hills
10% off! Stu's EZ Auto Remotes

HYUNDAI '03 Tiburin. Very good cond. Leather interior, just passed inspection. $5000. Call 646-249-1917

ACES $ SALVAGE
JUNK CARS WANTED
WE PAY THE MOST
We Pay in Cash
Guaranteed
Top Dollar
24/7 FREE TOWING
215-668-2277

Vehicles Wanted

WE BUY ANY AND ALL JUNK CARS $200-600 We also offer towing services. Cars can be running or not running.
Call 267-377-3088
Junk Cars and Towing

A $400 Guarantee
On Any Vehicle
NO

We Buy Junk Cars & Trucks
Will Pick your car up within the hour
215-200-3401

Cars

2007 Ford Mustang GT

41,000 MLS, TAKE OVER PMNTS. NO CRDT CHCK!, PWR EVRYTHNG, BLK LTHR, 6DSK CD, CHRME WHLS, NO DINGS, $5000D (NEG), $399 MTH. FOR 36M CALL (856) 676-6886

$$$ UP TO $1100.00 $$$
For Cars w/ Bad Engines w/or w/o title
450.00 CASH $$$
For Any Junk Cars
215-669-1000

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DEADLINE: two (2) business days prior to publication at noon. **866-900-9473**
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impulse

love it, want it, get it now

BCBGENERATION
Candiss braided wedge. 6-10M.
$98. ★ WebID 643079.

GUESS
Tabari studded wedge. 6-10M.
$99. ★ WebID 642784.

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